

Matteo Iron and Metal Site Removal Action Update

West Deptford, New Jersey

302822



March 2006

GLOSSARY

Removal Action: Short-term immediate actions taken to address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited response.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, or corrective action

What will EPA be doing at the Matteo Iron and Metal Site?

In February of this year the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an extensive sampling investigation near the boundary of the Matteo Iron and Metal Site and the Willow Woods Manufactured Home Community, and at a single residence located adjacent to the scrap yard on Crown Point Road. A previous sampling event in April 2005 identified several areas that were found to contain lead at levels of potential concern.

The results of the recent sampling event have revealed that there are elevated levels of lead at both of these locations. In and around Willow Woods, the contaminated area is located in the northeast section of the community, just north of Sections D, E, and F, along the border with the Matteo Iron and Metal Site. It is in an open, unpaved area used for parking, storage, and recreational activity between the northern edge of the homes and a wooded area leading into the Matteo Iron and Metal Site

EPA will be installing a snow fence and warning signs within the coming days in this area as a temporary measure. The purpose of this temporary fencing will be to provide a visual marker and to limit access to the main source of contaminated soil near the mobile homes. In this way, the residents of Willow Woods can avoid coming into contact with this area.

In the near future, EPA will be installing a chain-link fence around the Matteo Iron and Metal Site to restrict access to the soil contamination that is present throughout the Site. The chain-link fence will also serve as a more permanent measure to prevent access into the contaminated area in and around Willow Woods just north of Sections D, E, and F. Additional actions may be necessary, once the chain-link fence has been erected, to address any contaminated soil outside of the fence.

What kinds of activity take place at the Matteo Iron and Metal Site?

Currently a scrap metal recycling facility operates at the northeast portion of the Matteo Iron and Metal Site. Past operations included the processing of batteries and subsequent burial of the crushed battery casings and other wastes.

A branch of Hessian Run, a tributary to the Delaware River, flows adjacent to the site. Sampling conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) confirmed that soil and ground water at the site and the sediments in Hessian Run were contaminated with organic compounds and lead.

Is there a threat to people or the environment?

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have determined that the levels of lead identified in the soil just north of Sections D, E, and F in Willow Woods pose a public health hazard. NJDHSS and ATSDR advise that children not be permitted to come into contact with the contaminated soil in this area.

EPA will be hosting a public
information session on:

Thursday, March 16, 2006

at

3:00 to 5:00 PM

and

7:00 to 9:00 PM

at the West Deptford Municipal

Building

Court Room

400 Grove street

Thorofare, NJ 08086

EPA and other representatives will
be present to discuss site related
issues with concerned citizens in an
informal one-on-one basis.

Adults who come into contact with the contaminated area may not be at risk. They should however take precautions not to disturb the soils, and to clean their shoes and clothing if they do, so as not to expose sensitive populations such as children and women of child-bearing age.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions regarding activities at the Matteo Iron and Metal Site you can contact:

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Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a Regional Public Liaison for you to call, should you have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is George H. Zachos (732) 321-6621 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.